REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 27, 2002, the office allowed claims 12-18 and indicated that claims 5-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Office, however, rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent # 4,4471,935 to Chiba et al.

In regards to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 10. Claims 5, 9, and 10 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Objections to the claims

In regards to the Office's objection to claims 5-11, the applicant has amended claims 5-11 per the Office's suggestion. More specifically, claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 3; claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 3; and claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2.

In view of the above changes to claims 5, 9, and 10, and per the Office's comments on page 2, lines 18-20 and page 3, lines 2-8, the applicant submits that claims 5, 9, and 10, as rewritten, are in allowable form. As the amendments to the claims results in four

independent claims in the pending application, applicant has enclosed a check in the amount of $84.00 in payment of one additional independent claim over the allotted three.

In regards to claims 6-8, claims 6-8 depend on claim 5. Since claim 5, as rewritten, is now in allowable form the applicant submits that dependent claims 6-8 are also now in allowable form. In regards to dependent claim 11, claim 11 depends on claim 10. Since claim 10, as rewritten, is now in allowable form the applicant submits that dependent claim 11 is also now in allowable form.

It is for the above reasons that the applicant respectfully request that the Office's objections to claims 5-11 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 102(b)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent number 4,4471,935 to Chiba et al.

In rejecting claims 1-4, the Office stated that:

> "Chiba et al. teaches a shock and vibration system (10) comprising a first member (12, 16) having an interior space and a second member (18) being positioned interiorly with respect to the first member. The system comprises a plurality of elastomeric shock mounts (20) having a first end connected to the first member and a second end connected to the second member. The first member is fixedly mounted (col. 2, line 51-53). The second member is fixedly mounted (figure 4). The first member circumferentially surrounds the second member." (See page 2, lines 12-17 of the office action.)

Applicant disagrees with the above.

Chiba does not teach a plurality of elastomeric shock mounts each secured to both a first member and a second member.

Applicant's claim 1 call for:

> "a plurality of elastomeric shock mounts, each of said plurality of elastomeric shock mounts having a first end connected to said first member and a second end connected to said second member." (Emphasis added.)

In rejecting claims 1-4, the Office took the position that Chiba's outer member 12 and cylindrical wall 16 are the first member and Chiba's metal inner tube 18 is the second member and that Chiba's T shaped elastomeric member 20 is the plurality of elastomeric shock mounts. The applicant disagrees with the Office's interpretation of Chiba's T shaped elastomeric member 20. Note that Chiba describes his elastomeric member 20 as comprising of one member and not a plurality of members through Chiba's description of his elastomeric member 20 as having a "T shape."

Further note that Chiba's Figure 3 also shows Chiba's T shaped elastomeric member 20 as comprising of one member and not a plurality of members as the leg portion 24 and the arm portions 26 and 28 interconnect with each other to form a one-piece T-shaped configuration.

Chiba does not teach each of the elastomeric shock mounts as being symmetrical positioned

Applicant's claim 1 also calls for:

> "each of said elastomeric shock mounts symmetrical positioned in the interior space to thereby provide shock and vibration isolation between said first member and said second member." (Emphasis added.)

Note that since Chiba teaches his T shaped elastomeric member 20 as comprising of one member and not a plurality of members, for the reasons stated above, applicant submits that Chiba also not teach the symmetrical positioning of "each of said elastomeric shock mounts.

Although the applicant disagrees with the Office's interpretation of Chiba's T shaped elastomeric member 20 as being equivalent to a plurality of members, even if one were to follow the Office's interpretation of Chiba's T shaped elastomeric member 20 as being equivalent to the plurality of elastomeric shock mounts, Chiba does not teach the aspect of each of the elastomeric shock mounts as being symmetrical positioned in the interior space. Note that the T-shaped configuration of Chiba's elastomer member 20 prevents his arm portions 26 and 28 and leg portion 24 from being symmetrical positioned within Chiba's cylindrical inner wall 16. (See Chiba's Figure 3.)

Amendment to independent claim 1

In further regards to the Office's rejection of claims 1-4, although the applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over Chiba for the reasons stated above, the point is moot as claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 10. More specifically, the applicant has amended claim 1 to further call for a second member having:

"a chamber with a platform therein with said platform coaxially positioned with respect to said first member"

Applicant submits that Chiba does not teach his metal inner tube 18 as having a chamber with a platform therein with the platform coaxially positioned with respect to Chiba's outer member 12 and cylindrical inner wall 16.

It is for the above that the applicant submits that independent claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the reference of Chiba.

In regards to dependent claims 2-4, claims 2-4 depend on independent claim 1. Since claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Chiba et al. for the reasons stated above the applicant submits that dependent claims 2-4 are now also allowable.

In view of the above it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-11 is respectfully requested. Applicant has enclosed a marked-up version of the amendment with this response.

VERSION OF AMENDMENTS SHOWING MARKINGS

In the Claims

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A shock and vibration system for symmetrical isolation of shocks comprising:

a first member having an interior space;

a second member, said second member positioned interiorly with respect to said first member, said second member having a chamber with a platform therein with said platform coaxially positioned with respect to said first member; and

a plurality of elastomeric shock mounts, each of said plurality of elastomeric shock mounts having a first end connected to said first member and a second end connected to said second member with each of said elastomeric shock mounts symmetrical positioned in the interior space to thereby provide shock and vibration isolation between said first member and said second member.

5. (Amended) [The shock and vibration system of claim 3 wherein] A shock and vibration system for symmetrical isolation of shocks comprising:

a first member comprising a platform having an interior space;

[said] a second member [comprises] comprising a pole, said pole positioned interiorly with respect to platform, said pole fixedly mounted with [said first member comprising a] said platform extending radially outward from said pole; and

a plurality of elastomeric shock mounts, each of said plurality of elastomeric shock mounts having a first end connected to said platform and a second end connected to said

pole with each of said elastomeric shock mounts symmetrical positioned in the interior space to thereby provide shock and vibration isolation between said platform and said pole.

9. (Amended) [The shock and vibration system of claim 3 wherein said] A shock and vibration system for symmetrical isolation of shocks comprising:

a first member comprising a plurality of storage compartments having an interior space;

a second member [comprises] comprising a fixedly mounted pole; said pole positioned interiorly with respect to said plurality of storage compartments with [said first member comprising a plurality of storage compartments] said plurality of storage compartments extending radially outward from said pole;

a plurality of elastomeric shock mounts, each of said plurality of elastomeric shock mounts having a first end connected to said plurality of storage compartments and a second end connected to said pole with each of said elastomeric shock mounts symmetrical positioned in the interior space to thereby provide shock and vibration isolation between said plurality of storage compartments and said pole.

10. (Amended) [The shock and vibration system of claim 2 wherein] A shock and vibration system for symmetrical isolation of shocks comprising:

a first member having an interior space, said first member is fixedly mounted;

a second member, said second member positioned interiorly with respect to said first member; said second member [has] having a chamber with a platform therein with said platform coaxially positioned with respect to said first member; and

a plurality of elastomeric shock mounts, each of said plurality of elastomeric shock mounts having a first end connected to said first member and a second end connected to said second member with each of said elastomeric shock mounts symmetrical positioned in the interior space to thereby provide shock and vibration isolation between said first member and said second member.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON AND JOHNSON

By Carl L. Johnson

Carl L. Johnson, Reg. No. 24,273
Attorneys for Applicant
Suite 285
One West Water Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107-2080
Telephone: 651- 222-3775
Fax: 651-222-3776

CLJ/cj